

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Our Kids Are #MoreThanATest: Statewide Response

Virtual listening session

When: Thursday, May 25 6pm CT

Where: Virtual on Zoom, registration link

<https://secure.everyaction.com/pENwerq3h0ye91sHfM73xQ2>

Speakers: open mic to include parents of 3rd graders, teachers, community members

Social Media: livestream event on Facebook (@SOCMTN)

Tenn., April 24, 2023 - Following the recent release of TCAP scores, parents and educators across Tennessee have expressed anger and frustration at the rollout of the new Third Grade Retention Law, passed by the General Assembly in 2021. As many parents, educators, administrators and school board members warned in the fall, an average of 60% of 3rd graders across the state are now facing possible retention after scoring below proficient on the ELA portion of the TCAP. Many of these students have straight As and Bs on ELA coursework but didn't score well on ONE test. Now, parents and students have just a few days to figure out whether to cancel summer plans and attend summer school OR be held back a year. Educators and school administrators have been left with little guidance from the state on how to handle the influx of students in summer school programs.

This regressive law was crafted by Governor Lee and passed by the supermajority in our General Assembly in DIRECT OPPOSITION to educators, parents, school administrators and school boards across the state. Now, students are forced to face the consequences of the General Assembly's failure to amend the Third Grade Retention Law in a way that truly benefits students.

SOCM is hosting a virtual listening session during which parents and teachers will share their experiences with this disastrous policy. This will be an opportunity for families to share the impact that this law is having on the future of their children's education, and why the General Assembly must do a better job of supporting public education

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About SOCM

Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment (pronounced SOCK-um) is a member-driven nonprofit based in Tennessee that is dedicated to empowering Tennesseans in their efforts to have a greater voice in determining their own future. SOCM is celebrating its 50th year of training and organizing members to fight for a more just and equitable Tennessee. The organization is led by a board of directors and operates through local chapters and statewide committees. Currently, SOCM members are working hard to defend public education in the state. Visit socm.org to learn more.